

93-48

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FCC

MM Docket 93-48

June 12, 1995

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of the Secretary  
1919 M Street, NW  
Washington DC 20554

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JUN 20 1995

FCC MAIL ROOM

Dear FCC:

I am pleased that you are seeking comments from parents and children on ways to improve children's television programming. As a parent, I am concerned with the level of violence that dominates children's cartoons. It establishes a world view of "us versus them". The use of violence is the predominate approach to problem solving. We don't want our children growing up in a world of fear without hope.

It would be wonderful if rules and regulations could encourage more shows that had adventure, exploration, gender balance, multicultural appreciation and problem solving without violence. There are some shining examples for school age children, mostly but not exclusively from PBS - The Magic School Bus series, Storytime, Ghostwriter, Aladdin, Captain Planet, Scooby-do. They have stories to tell that aren't the "bad guys are taking over" variety. Why can't there be more building and discovery? Girls are absent or peripheral to most shows. When my daughter was barely 4, she said "I don't like that show. There are no girls in it."

I see too much destruction and darkness in Batman, Botmaster, Gargoyles, Mighty Max, Transformers and Power Rangers. The educational disclaimers at the end of these shows do little to mitigate the violent solution approach used in the preceding 29 minutes but my children do take note of them. Perhaps a well publicized scorecard of the acts of violence per show in children's cartoons would help all of us make better choices. Ask the producers to measure and report the number of hits, kicks, shots, captures and other assaults per show whether against robots, people or monsters. Publicize it through TV guides, cable bills and quarterly newspaper articles. They make enough money from these half hour advertisements to pay someone to do the counting.

I have seen advertisements for violent R rated movies during children's viewing times. It was 4:30p.m. when I saw an ad depicting a prone man then a shot of an upraised bat. The two did not connect but children could certainly make the connection in their own imagination. I have seen movie ads with explosions and guns. I believe TV stations should be restricted from showing ads for violent R rated movies during children's television shows from 6:30 a.m. - 8:30 a.m. and 3:30 - 6 or 8 p.m.

I hope you will be successful in encouraging improvements in children's programs. There are some good choices out there but not enough.

Sincerely,

*Fran Penner-Ray*  
Fran Penner-Ray

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MM DOCKET 93-48

FCC

June 16 Th, 1993

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
1919 M STREET, NW  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20554

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FCC MAIL ROOM

DEAR FCC PERSONNEL:

THANK YOU FOR YOUR EFFORTS TOWARDS IMPROVING TV  
FOR OUR CHILDREN. WE HAVE THREE SPECIFIC ITEMS:  
AND AN ANECDOTE TO OFFER:

1. PROVIDE MUCH MORE PROGRAMMING WHICH INSPIRES WITH  
EXAMPLES OF PERSONS WITH ~~EXAMPLES~~ VIRTUES SUCH  
AS COURAGE, FAITHFULNESS, HONESTY, PEACEFULNESS,  
LOVE, CREATIVE & INTELLIGENT HOPE, CITIZENSHIP.  
DO NOT PROMOTE VIOLENT SOLUTIONS TO PROBLEMS, ~~LOSTFUL~~  
~~AND~~ AND INDULGENT ENTERTAINMENTS, INCIVILITY & IMMORALITY
2. GIVE A BETTER BALANCE BETWEEN NEW & OLD  
MATERIAL, CLASSICS & NEW STORY'S, LIGHT & DEEPER  
INTELLECTUAL LEVELS. DO NOT IGNORE OR TRIVIALIZE  
CLASSIC & RELIGIOUS IDEAS & THEMES.
3. SET TIGHTER REQUIREMENTS ON ADVERTISEMENTS & COMMERCIALS  
DURING FAMILY PROGRAMMING & VIEWING HOURS. FREQUENTLY  
PRODUCTS AND ESPECIALLY MOVIE ADS DURING KIDS SHOWS  
ARE AMONG THE WORST, CHILD INAPPROPRIATE ADS WE HAVE  
SEEN.

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I HAVE REPEATEDLY SEEN, READ AND HEARD OUR TV  
NETWORK AND ENTERTAINMENT EXECUTIVES PASS OFF  
THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR SELECTING OUT RUDE, INCIVIL,  
IMMORAL & VIOLENT ~~SHOWS~~ ON TO PARENTS.

To show that individual responsibility for screening shows will not work EVEN IN A TWO PARENT, CONCERNED & diligent family with full time mother I offer the following experience:

My oldest son just finished his FIRST GRADE YEAR. WHILE WE AND MOST OF THE PARENTS OF CLASS MEMBERS ARE CAREFUL WITH THEIR CHILDREN'S TV SELECTIONS AND DO NOT ALLOW THEIR CHILDREN TO WATCH BEAVIS & BUTT-HEAD, THREE OF THE STUDENTS IN THE CLASS WERE WATCHERS OF THIS SHOW. AS A RESULT, DISRESPECT AND PROFANITY TOWARD TEACHERS, GUTTERAL GRUNTING, <sup>TALK OF</sup> MASTURBATION AND PLAYING WITH FIRE ETC. WERE INTRODUCED TO THE CLASS AND BROUGHT INTO OUR OWN HOME BY THE <sup>DIRECT</sup> INFLUENCE OF THIS SHOW ON THREE OF 20 CHILDREN. THE TEACHER & WE HAD TROUBLE ALL YEAR DEALING WITH BEHAVIOURS AND ATTITUDES COPIED FROM THIS SHOW.

TV PROGRAMMING IS A COMMUNITY INFLUENCE CHOICE AND NOT JUST AN INDIVIDUALISTIC INFLUENCE & CHOICE!

PLEASE DO ALL YOU CAN TO CONSIDER HOW CHILDREN CAN GROW IN LEARNING, CIVILITY, RESPECT, AND HIGH IDEALS & DREAMS & HOPES THROUGH PROGRAMMING. HOLD CHANNELS RESPONSIBLE!

Sincerely,  
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